

ENDS AND TRENDS WITH KIM AND KAREN

Kim's Tip: Pumpkin Carving Techniques



It's that time of the season for Jack-o'-lanterns to take center stage. Have you ever wondered how you can create some of the most detailed and interesting carved pumpkins? Try these simple carving technique steps to help you carve your next pumpkin like a pro!

- **Select the right size** – Look for pumpkins that are large, ripe and have smooth, even surfaces to make carving a little easier.
- **Choose a design** – Make your own freehand design or try a stencil/template for more complex designs.
- **Cut out the top or bottom** – If cutting the top, cut out a circle or hexagon shape hole around the pumpkins stem at an angle to make a lid. Cutting the bottom or side is good for unstable or smaller pumpkins.
- **Clear the inside** – The thinner the inside, the easier it is to carve and the brighter your lantern will be. Flatten a space at the bottom for a candle or light.
- **Carve time!** – Transfer your design to the pumpkin (trace design for better results). Carve pattern using carving tools. If desired, place either candles, small flashlights or a battery-operated light source inside the pumpkin to showcase your design. (Apply a thin layer of petroleum to cut areas of pumpkin to prevent it from turning brown.)

Have fun carving!!!